

UPEI Wins at More Than Hockey

On Saturday, October 17, UPEI proved that its academic skills are just as high as its skills on the ice, or in the gym. For the first time ever, two students from UPEI, Peter Spierenburg and Mike Lamoureux, walked off the victors of the APICS Computer Science Contest.

APICS is an Atlantic Canada organization which holds contests every year in several different sciences. Mike and Peter were competing against students from several other maritime universities including Dalhousie, Memorial, and UNB. Considering UPEI does not even offer a degree in Computer Science, Mike and Pete had some pretty tough competition.

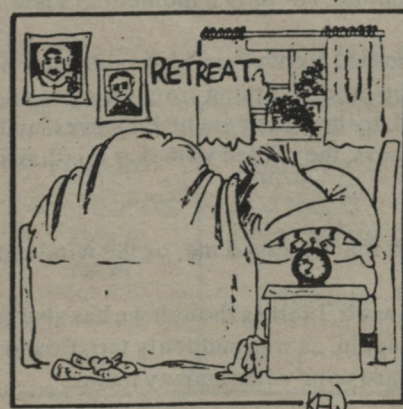
The goal of this year's contest was to write a computer program to schedule final exams without letting any student write two exams in a row or at the same time. This may not seem difficult to non-programmers, but if you think how long it would take you to figure out an exam schedule for UPEI by hand that pleased you and all your friends, you might get a better idea of what Mike and Pete had to go through. Mike and Pete spent 44 hours working on this problem, out of 48 hours that were allowed. This means that they only slept 4 hours during an entire weekend. Although they were tired, they felt their effort was well worth it when they were awarded the plaque which will be held at UPEI until next year's conference.

Their reactions to the whole affair? Quite simply, they plan on doing even better next year. When asked how they planned to better a first place finish, Pete replied that they would write an even better program so that at one glance, the judges would unanimously pronounce them winners, without bothering to look at the other entries. Good Luck! Congratulations are definitely in order here, so stop by the Pit and find the table of people playing cards. They'll be there receiving best wishes (and the bitch, don't ask) for the rest of the semester, or maybe all year.



Mike - Peter

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